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art around campus!
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Community college
with no community
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Exercise makes you
smarter
pg. 11

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

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Spring 2018 • Volume 83 • Issue Number • March 28, 2018

News Bytes

"Tales from the Home
of the World's Worst
Weather"

March 29th at 12:15 in
TC 103B, Sponsored
by the STEM Starter
Academy Grant for the
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campus

The man behind the lens



Photo by NECC Newsrooms



Photo by Jose Garcia

Pictured on left is Jose Garcia. On right is an example of one of his photos.

*Jose Garcia, is photographing members of the Northern
Essex community in a new initiative #FacesofNECC*

BY MARIELLA MENDEZ
Correspondent

This spring semester, a new project has sprouted within the Northern Essex Community featuring former NECC student Jose Garcia. Garcia is a 29 year old Haverhill resident who has taken the initiative to turn his passion for photography into a career.

Garcia was born in the Dominican Republic, more specifically the capital, Santo Domingo. He moved to Haverhill at just 6 years old and then moved to Lawrence where he attended Lawrence High School for one term before he was accepted to Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. For a long time he wanted to study animals but later developed a passion for photog-
raphy when he met his wife, Jean-

nie who moved down from Tennessee, and wanted to become an aspiring model. This newfound love for cameras resulted in Garcia's decision to break away from college. Garcia says, "I wanted to help her out, so I set up a product modeling home business. She kept asking me about camera settings, so I had to YouTube everything to figure it out. While doing the research trying to figure out these little questions, I got more and more interested until it became an addiction." He began this new lifestyle in 2011 and decided to expand it into his permanent profession in 2013.

The project was inspired by the "Humans of New York" blog, which captures people in natural states and environments, inspiring Garcia to do something par-

allel at a college campus instead of the busy streets of a big city. Garcia also wanted to start putting out more free content in order to keep his work consistent and current, while also capturing interesting stories within the students and staff. Garcia explained his passion and work of art all with camera in hand. Garcia emphasized that the "Faces of NECC" project would also help him continue to practice shooting pictures and also getting comfortable with his subjects. He thought a college campus was the perfect environment to shoot, "safe, consistent content" where he could capture "interesting portraits and stories from the students." He explains that it was an extended training for him, "the more you shoot, the better you get."

Continued on page 8

Important dates:

Students needed to help with a study of wild birds on Apple-dore Island in Maine!

Help is needed the week of May 21-27, and also July 16-20 on a wild gull project.

To apply: Email a one page application essay explaining why you want to participate and the name and contact info of a faculty or work reference to Sarah Courchesne (scourchesne@necc.mass.edu) by March 31st.

We're going back to BodaBorg escape room!

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Editorial



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I want to wear a skirt, do you?

I want to wear a pink dress and play with trucks .. What gender am I?

BY SARAH DESIDERIO

Editor-In-Chief

When a little girl turns three everyone buys her pink skirts and baby dolls. When a little boy turns three everyone buys him cargo pants and trucks. Why does this happen? Why are these gender stereotypes happening at such a young age? When did it become wrong for girls to play with trucks and boys to play with babies? Is one more acceptable than the other?

In the United States we commonly associate everything with having two categories; two options, but is everything really so black and white? Are there really only two options for everything? Are there more? Could there be more options?

Gender is defined by what you identify as. However, American

culture has decided that gender is a label. You are either male or female. Point blank, all done.

Notice how I stated that as 'American culture'. In other parts of the world there are more gender options, sometimes as many as five.

In the American culture we would never think of this because we have decided that there are only two options, meaning that girls toys are associated with pink, frilly things, as well as household activities like cooking and mothering, while boy's toys are blue and involve superheros, hot wheels, and monster trucks. But why is this like this? Why do they not make pink trucks or make kitchen sets in blue since they make them in pink, or better yet, just make them yellow and green, 'gender neutral colors'.

Eight years ago when my mom was pregnant with my sister, my parents decided to not find out her gender until she was born. You would expect everyone's reaction to be 'ooh that's so nice it'll be such a big surprise!' But no.

“

Why do they not make pink trucks or make kitchen sets in blue since they make them in pink..

- Sarah Desiderio

”

Way more people than you would expect were like 'how can they do that, how will I know what to buy them? Now I don't know if I should buy pink or blue for them.' It's a baby. Babies don't care what they wear. They weigh 10 pounds and can't control their bladder, they're not concerned what color their onesie is, they're concerned about whether they have a wet diaper or not.

When my sister turned three and everyone bought her baby dolls and kitchen sets for her birthday, my mom bought her trucks. My mom also bought her farm animals, because at some point those seem to have become 'boy toys' too. Puppies and kittens for the girls, pigs and cows

for the boys. Soft and fluffy for the girls, rough and tough for the boys, noticing a pattern yet?

I believe, that every child should have the option to wear and play with whatever they want. Yesterday, when my sister woke up she decided to get dressed on her own and chose to put on a dress. The day before when my mom was trying to help her get dressed she wanted nothing to do with that same dress. This is a common seven-year-old girl problem. But why is it girls exclusively?

If you walk into the store with your seven-year-old daughter and she says she wants cargo pants and Timberlands you're not going to question her, right? But, if you

walk into a store with your seven-year-old son and while walking past the skirts he says he wants one, you're going to tell him that he's a boy not a girl and boys don't wear skirts, right? Does this logic make sense, because wasn't there a time in history, not to long ago, when girls didn't wear pants ever? In fact, there's plenty of people still alive today who remember when that was the reality. Then, before that, there was a time when everyone wore skirts, girls and boys. So really what's the difference? Why did it change? There's multiple cultures in society where boys still wear skirts, maybe not daily but special occasions, so shouldn't there be some variety in our society too?

If in today's society girls are able to have the option of what they wear, shouldn't boys have the same courtesy? All I'm saying is that if my son is more interested in wearing his sister's skirt than his sister is, I see no reason that he shouldn't be able to wear it.

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

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Issue	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
#1	Jan. 24	N/A
#2	Feb. 14	Feb. 7
#3	March 7	Feb. 28
#4	March 28	March 21
#5	April 9	April 4
#6	May 2	April 25

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Opinion

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Get lost

Finding a new perspective on the road less traveled

By BRENNAN COONEY
Opinion Editor

Every time I leave NECC, I turn left out of the Spurk parking lot and ride route 97 all the way home to Topsfield.

Until the day I decided not to. I turned right out of the parking lot and saw what I could find.

The first time, I went a good 20 or so minutes out of my way before giving in to the need for lunch and using GPS to cheat. By the second, and third, and fourth expeditions, I have planned ahead and made time in my schedule to wander.

Being lost is highly underrated. The Merrimack River Valley has some beautiful scenery, and the quaint towns along the way are great places to stop and have a snack amidst an impromptu odyssey.

Gliding along a major highway can feel like the flight of a hawk, effortless and smooth, while cruising the narrow wooded backroads of New England brings to mind Robert Frost's love for the land.

All of a sudden, aux cables and CD's go unused as the lost art of radio surfing is discovered again.

On a whim, I drove from the Haverhill campus straight to Richardson's Ice Cream in Middleton, and on to the Northshore Mall to pick up a bouquet for my

girlfriend, as Valentine's day had been fast approaching.

This drive could have been arduous and felt like an eternity, if I'd been expected at my destination, or even had somewhere else I had to be within a few hours.

The standard day for many of us is a whirlwind of deadlines and responsibilities to meet, often barely managed and held together by a schedule.

It can be easy to let entire weeks go by at a nonstop, break-neck pace. Not only do we not stop to smell the roses, we might very well accidentally step in them while trying to edit our assignments.

Many are caught in a constant juggle of work, academics, and family responsibilities, and such a schedule does not allow much time to sleep, never mind time to wander off to the middle of nowhere.

It is because our lives leave so little time to wander that we must. After planning far ahead, it is possible to escape into the wilds beyond the rat race.

Like a dog off the leash, let your wonder be your guide, and your wandering be your destination.

Suddenly every hill has something to find over it, and the act of traveling is no longer another chore of the day, but a grand experience at once energetic and carefree.

Soon, you'll notice roads that lay along your usual route, and like a siren's song the winding

“

It is because our lives leave so little time to wander that we must.

”

path will beckon.

There may well be a moment when “lost” goes from a fun, different experience to being well and truly off the charts.

The knee-jerk reaction for a person who never knew a world without GPS and might not remember what a print Atlas looks like is to panic.

During my second outing, it occurred to me I was in the wrong state, at that point, I admit, I got worried.

But in this moment, my best advice for the waylaid traveler is to think simply.

Road signs, however overlooked, are almost universally present and the paradox is the more one gets lost, the less lost they are.

My wandering once dumped me in a very familiar place, an intersection right on the New Hampshire-Massachusetts line.

From there I was able to orient myself and ride the highway straight home.

This moment of recognition alone was more than worth the time out of the day, and served as a reward for my striking out into the unknown, and was a strong incentive to do it again.

Of course, I always keep a charged cell phone, which includes GPS, handy as a safety measure.

I am not advocating striking out blind with no means of getting back on track.

But I will say the added, self-imposed difficulty that comes from avoiding the easy way out for as long as possible is a fun challenge to add to the allure of wandering the countryside.

Even as I have delved here into exploration by car, the experience of wandering the urban landscape can be just as fun and just as rewarding.

On a cloudless spring day, while visiting Boston, it occurred to me to forgo the subway as my means to reach my destination and instead opted to hoof it.

Just as wandering the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border by car was surprisingly manageable after a short while, navigating Beantown by landmark became something of a game, and Boston is rife with shops and cafes to serve as waypoints along the trek.

There are no more continents to find, and fewer and fewer geographic discoveries to be made.

But sailing a schooner to the north pole is far from the only kind of discovery.

Instead, exploring the communities that have only ever been lines on a map becomes a personal quest, foregoing directions as they are anathema to the spirit of adventure.

If one doesn't know where they are going to end up, they can't very well ask for directions.

As pupils, we must seek lessons in the world around us as much as in textbook or lecture. Learning to approach being lost, or thrown off course as a challenge or even a game teaches an important lesson.

As summed up by the greatest pirate that never lived, Captain Jack Sparrow, “The problem is not the problem, the problem is your attitude about the problem.” Finding one's own way out of difficulty builds confidence and a problem-solving mindset.

So set aside a day to find a favorite radio station, CD set or Spotify playlist, pick a direction and just go. Who knows what you'll find when you stop looking.

NECC reacts to armed teachers proposal

By SHAIHEL ESTEVEZ
Correspondent

Controversy has built up all over the United States over firearm regulations with all the school shootings.

Students and faculty have strong opinions on both ends about teachers being able to carry a firearm on them when school is in session.

President Donald Trump has agreed with having teachers armed and has been pursuing this idea. How does this make students feel? Teachers? Parents?

With all the dangerous situations that have been happening in schools, it automatically can make everyone nervous, especially students who are attending school, parents who send their kids to school, and even teachers and faculty who go into work everyday to teach these kids.

Is it realistic that if teachers and faculty are armed it would put everyone else at ease?

“Active shooter drills is a very negative thing,” Trump states on the New York Times. “I don't like it. I'd much rather have a hardened school.” In other words, he strongly agrees with having armed faculty in schools, a hardened school can make a better environment in his eyes.

When asking some students their opinion on this, they did not agree with this idea. Jazmin Medina stated, “I don't think a law like this needs to be passed. Teachers don't get paid enough to be armed. How will students know teachers and faculty won't misuse these weapons?”

When told that Trump was stating he will provide training to faculty to use these weapons correctly Medina responded,

“No matter how much training teachers will get on using weapons, professors weren't ever trained to have weapons before, this is not something you learn just like that.”

Zuleika Pimentel also stated, “Not every adult is suitable to carry a weapon.”

There are many people who are not fans of weapons. If professors shouldn't carry these weapons who should?

“No one should carry weapons, just because an adult has a hold of a weapon does not make everyone safe,” Medina states.

It is pretty clear certain students are not so happy with this idea. If students are terrified, imagine teachers themselves how they feel about carrying a weapon on them.

Maurisa Charest, a professor at NECC states, “As a teacher I not

only update my curriculum every semester to keep my lectures current and up to date but I always survey each classroom I teach in. For the last 10 years of teaching, I enter a room and look at how I can keep my students safe in the event of an active shooter or any emergency for that matter.

I have in the past worked at a college where I had a few students I felt unsafe teaching so I always armed myself with pepper spray in the case I (or my students) was ever attacked.

I understand the importance of quick action, so if my school asked me to arm myself, I would, IF the school paid for the weapon and training.

I feel that if there are teachers who are comfortable and willing to arm themselves and safety protocols are put in place at the school for the weapons,

then we should let them, however, I'd prefer an armed guard or metal detectors instead.

I have been to a shooting range and I don't have a fear of guns. I do not own a firearm and I completely understand those who fear them.

No teacher should ever be forced to arm themselves if they don't feel comfortable.”

So what is the reason behind all these school shootings? Does it narrow down to not having armed teachers?

Not having enough security guards? Pimentel states, “I believe it is failure to keep up with protocol.

If you think of it, some schools have metal protectors, so why is it that the schools that these shootings have happened in don't have any type of security provided? Just makes no sense.”

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News

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Assault awareness on campus

Educational panel to host discussion on sexual assault prevalence on college campuses

By JOHN SORAGHAN
News Editor

The Northern Essex Community College Student Government Association, along with a group of experts, and the greater NECC community are hosting a discussion and educational panel to raise awareness on the prevalence of sexual assaults on college campuses.

Tia Garrett, vice president of the Haverhill campus, describes the event as a “chance to open up the discussion of what sexual assault is, who it can effect, as well as education on behaviors that can sig-

nal an attack.”

Garrett further went on to say that “male and LGBTQ victims will also be discussed, as they can often be overlooked in these type of events.”

“One in five women will be sexually assaulted during their time on a college campus. The same can be said for one in sixteen men,” according to a flier for the event.

Stats like these are cited by the Sexual Assault Awareness Day organizers as the rationale behind the necessity for such a dialogue.

The event, which will take place on April 4 will be held

in the Technology Center’s events room, 103.

The panel will consist of Colby Patrie, president of the NECC Gender and Sexuality Alliance chapter, Elizabeth Telegente, NECC’s Title IX coordinator, and a Massachusetts police officer. Garrett says that this diverse group of people will “help to address many of the stages and perspectives of any given sexual assault.”

All members of the student government will be selling blue ribbons in the coming weeks to raise money and awareness for this problem faced by so many colleges,

and society on the whole.

Sarah Tavitian, a freshman at NECC, likes the idea of raising awareness, but also noted that she doesn’t think assaults of any kind seem to be much of a problem on this campus. “Events like these, and really anything that furthers the cause of social justice are great, however I am happy to say, from my own experience, and the experience of friends it doesn’t seem to be an issue.”

Garrett said she would agree that “although it may not be a major issue at NECC, the fact that so many of our students will transfer to four year schools gives us a moral

obligation to prepare them for the type of environment where these things can happen.”

And she also noted that “transfer students could be especially susceptible to attacks due to their unfamiliarity with the lifestyle of dorms, fraternities, and parties that can be characterized as the norm for so many students’ experience at four year institutions, particularly the larger state schools.”

Garrett can be contacted for more information, or if there is any interest in participating in the event contact her at tia.franklingarrett16@gmail.com.

Events like these, and really anything that furthers the cause of social justice are great, however I am happy to say, from my own experience, and the experience of friends it doesn’t seem to be an issue.

- Sarah Tavitian, NECC Freshman

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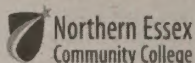
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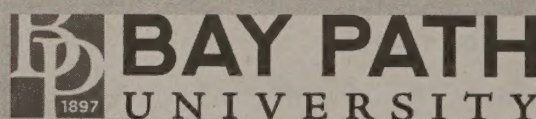
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NECC student receives national civic fellowship

A new award comes to NECC

By ELLEN SMALL-DAVIS
NECC Newsroom

Jonah Adamsky of South Hampton, NH, formerly of Andover, has been named Northern Essex Community College's first ever Newman Civic Fellow for his dedication to under-served populations and seeking social justice for all.

The 22-year-old psychology major was nominated by NECC President Lane Glenn who wrote of Adamsky, "Jonah has a passion for serving others, giving back to his community, and creating a more just society... faculty members describe him as hard working, conscientious, highly intelligent, and strongly motivated.

They also describe his strong compassion for his peers, volunteering to assist a student with a learning accommodation and

during group work always making "sure no one got left behind."

With a 3.92 GPA, Adamsky, who for the last five years has worked in childcare hopes to continue his work with children.

"Jonah has a strong sense of justice, especially when it comes to children... He has a compelling desire to create equal opportunity for all children," wrote Glenn.

Adamsky is treasurer of NECC's Community Outreach Group, a student club dedicated to community service.

In addition, he is an active member of the Gender Sexuality Alliance, a student club that advocates and educates on issues important to NECC's LGBTQ+ community.

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. The fellowship, named for Campus

Compact founder Frank Newman, provides training and resources that nurture students' assets and passions to help them develop strategies to achieve social change.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides learning opportunities in person and online that focus on the skills fellows need in order to serve as effective agents of change in addressing public problems and building equitable communities.

“

Jonah has a strong sense of justice, especially when it comes to children... He has a compelling desire to create equal opportunity for all children

- Lane Glenn

”

In his personal statement Adamsky wrote, "From a young age, I have been concerned for others, particularly those who are in some way disadvantaged, or are LGBTQ+."

Adamsky has spent time volunteering at Ruth's House in Haverhill and the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lawrence, which, he explains, helps give local communities access to the clothing and housing they need.

"...I hope to work with an or-

ganization that helps either disadvantaged or LGBTQ+ children. I am passionate about making sure all children are allowed equal opportunity to thrive," he wrote.

Adamsky plans to graduate from NECC in December of 2019 with a liberal arts: psychology degree and transfer to University of New Hampshire.

NECC Professor Meredith Gunning recommended Adamsky for the Fellowship. She will serve as his mentor next year.

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Sculptures inspire discussion

Unnamed 3D Art finds a home on the NECC Haverhill

By LEAH MAHONEY

Arts & Entertainment Editor

A mysterious artistic presence has been made known in the halls and courtyards of NECC in Haverhill.

"It made me stop," said Matthew Hewitt, a student and art

appreciator who found himself in the presence of one of the newly erected art installations on his way to class. Like a treasure hunt on campus, The Foundations of 3D Art class taught by Professor Diane Pappas, has helped to put together an array of visual spectacles to be consumed and analyzed by the student body.

The first floor of Spurk is the home to one of these displays, a series of tubes made from recycled water bottles. "I think it's a statement on the ridiculous amount of plastic trash plastic water bottles are," said student Geehae Moon of the art. Each of the sculptures received mixed reviews and a wide range of interpretations. Moon went on to say that the piece also resembled "clear intestines." Whereas Matthew Hewitt was reminded of streamers after seeing the tubular plastic art piece.

Some were struck by the new fixtures on a deeply personal level. Hewitt also spoke candidly about his

view of the piece underneath the staircase in Spurk. "As a former addict, it really hit home for me. [The artist] really hit it spot on."

One of the most talked about installations was one placed outside of the General Services Center (B building) and the Spurk building. It features a mannequin torso, head, and a single arm placed sideways on a web of string next to a smaller "baby" figure painted grey. Hewitt said that the outdoor exhibit was less obvious to him. "That one confused me. [The figure] is kind of torn apart and it looks like his inner child is burned up."

Student, Armando Belliard-Harmon interpreted the display as a symbol of "the artificial things that claim to hold us together" (i.e. apps, social media). He went on to say that, despite aforementioned "claims" these things "are also keeping us from seeing the greater fractured picture. We are all falling apart no matter what 'webbing' we may use to hold things together. The theme seems to be escapism and avoiding the inevitable."

This piece was also seen by Student Government Marketing Chair Abbey Tannatt, who saw it from an entirely different perspective. "I think [the sculpture] is about abortion or a mother losing a child to a miscarriage and how their body is webbed [or] tied to the child that they lost... That's why it looks like the body is falling apart," said Tannatt.

All of the art seemed to inspire a strong response from students. While some may have found it to be strange, or even offputting, most were excited to have the oppor-

tunity to interpret sculptures on campus. Hewitt described the change as "well needed" and is thrilled by the potential for new art to pop up in the community.

Photos by Leah Mahoney



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Struggling to survive

Taking a look at our suffering clubs

By JINETTE GALARZA

Campus Life Editor

A community college is meant to be a place where students from nearby neighborhoods, and international students, join such institutions for a common purpose: To attain an associate's degree or certification which will help them join the work force or transfer to a four-year institution to continue their education. Among these students you'll find traditional and non-traditional students, making a community college a great way for more experienced classmates to help the younger ones, and vice-versa. A fantastic way for students to learn about each other is through the student run clubs and organizations on campus. Whether you are a Science major or an English major it doesn't matter, if you both like acting, playing board games, learning about your community, developing your dance skills, or learn about deaf studies, the clubs at the college are the right fit for anyone that wants to be a part of it.

So, what happens when these clubs no longer have the ability to provide for students that environment where they can share common interests and create long lasting relationships? NECC has experienced changes in the class schedules, adding more classes on Mondays through Thursdays, while allowing mostly free Fridays. While Fridays off may sound great to some, it has indeed taken a tough toll on clubs that meet on the 12pm-1pm time slot. With classes ending at 12:15pm and others starting at 12:30pm clubs no longer have that one hour of availability to meet with their groups and enjoy the things they hold dear. The questions that we can ask, among many others, is why was this change made? Was it to benefit the students, or the faculty and staff? While these changes were being discussed, did anybody stopped to think about how detrimental this would be for those student run clubs who met in these specific time periods? Did anyone cared enough to think about the impact this would have on the student

population? Its unity? Or was the only factor that was taken into account money?

When asked if it was a good idea for the switch to be made, student Sara Ramirez responded "Honestly, I don't think it was worth it. The clubs and organizations are things students felt we needed on campus in order to create a deeper more meaningful sense of community. Starting the weekend earlier does not add to that feeling of belonging. Clubs were too severely impacted by the change and I, personally was devastated."

Colby Patrie, the president of the GSA club, was particularly outraged at this change. His club has been affected severely, they lost one of their officers and are close to losing another one due to a lab class conflict. "It is difficult to communicate with everyone to plan our events. We treat it as a democracy and I always ask the club what everyone's ideas are before we plan something. It's hard to get a good idea of what people want when there's only two members showing up because everyone else has

class," said Patrie.

When asked what he would say to our administration in regards of this matter he responded with the following "I'd recommend changing it to the way it was before. Absolutely NO CLASSES between 12pm-1pm".

Student Nate Miller who is part of the Improv club has seen a drastic decrease in attendance from 23 to 4 students due to this change. Miller said "With less people attending a lot of times clubs try and try to figure out how to get more people, but without that timeslot people just can't stay." Miller is also the president of the Student Government Association, when asked how the SGA was working on helping the students through this Miller answered "we tried our hardest to give the club's the budget they needed, in a few cases we saw how much clubs were doing and we actually gave them more money than they requested".

While giving money to the clubs is a great source for clubs to fund their activities, in no

way does giving more money resolves or at the least provokes conversation on how there can be a solution to this problem. When asked if the SGA had reached out to the authorities on campus Miller answered "We haven't yet but that's something I would be very interested in doing."

For those people in our dear-est community college who read this, have the power to create change, and who truly care about the student population, listen to our plea. In order for this college to retain its COMMUNITY sense and strive for UNITY, the OPPORTUNITY and AVAILABILITY must be given to students to continue working for such goal. If you want higher attendance and graduation rates, then the reasons that would make students stay NEED to be taken into consideration.

Clubs and organizations are a vital piece of our college and to have it stripped away with no warning is not acceptable. Show us that you care, and give us back our time!

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Humanities under siege?

Students protest after University of Wisconsin Stevens Point's proposal to eliminate 13 humanities majors and programs

By EMILY ZINSMEISTER

Features Editor

On March 5, the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point announced plans to drop 13 liberal arts majors in the fields of humanities and social sciences and redirect that money to the expansion and addition of 16 programs that have "demonstrated value and demand in the region", according to the school's website. This announcement comes as UW-Stevens Point faces a \$4.5 million deficit due to declining enrollment and tuition revenue.

The proposed cuts include majors in English, history, philosophy and political science. The elimination of these programs would allow for the school to expand certain programs primarily in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields which include finance, management, chemical engineering, fire science and computer information systems, as well as the addition of new bachelor's degree programs such as environmental engineering, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and aquaculture/aquaponics.

The fiscally motivated plan was immediately met with backlash from students, faculty and the surrounding community, and prompted the school's Chancellor, Bernie Patterson to address the reactions in a column for the Stevens Point Journal attempting to clarify the school's position:

"Twenty-five years of my academic career was in teaching and administrative roles at a college of arts and science, so I cannot emphasize enough: A broad liberal arts education is crucial. We remain committed to ensuring every student who graduates from UW-Stevens Point is thoroughly grounded in the liberal arts, as well as prepared for a successful career path. It is critical our students learn to communicate well, solve problems, think critically and creatively, be analytical and innovative, and work well in teams."

Patterson emphasized that the proposal does not mean an end to liberal arts completely at UW-Stevens Point and that 80% of the humanities courses currently offered will continue, saying that "most of our students who take courses in these fields do not major in them." His article continued, outlining the instabil-

ity of the institution's finances and citing various departments and areas that have already been affected by the deficit, essentially leaving no other option but the humanities for cost-cutting measures:

"As UW-Stevens Point has faced decades of declining state support, and more recently, declining enrollment, we have tried nearly every strategy, except cutting programs to address fiscal challenges...open positions were left unfilled, contracts not renewed, administrative roles consolidated. We have implemented cost-savings, increased workloads, raised class sizes, reduced administrative spending, and nearly eliminated budgets for supplies, equipment, technology and facilities...restricted travel and professional development, reduced student activities...In short, we have cut everywhere else."

Despite Patterson's remarks, on Wednesday, March 21, students led a Save Our Majors sit-in protesting these changes. Hundreds of students, faculty and community members joined the demonstration, many holding signs that read: "Where's your humanity? It's been cut." In addition to staging the demonstration, student leaders also issued a letter to the administration stating their concerns surrounding the elimination of these 13 programs and their disappointment in the school's attitude on the value of liberal arts.

"For years, the legislature in Wisconsin has perpetuated the belief that education is only valuable when it leads to specific career paths. We were disheartened to see the attitude of our academic affairs conform to that belief... By responding to the structural deficit with eliminating humanities departments we risk shifting the culture of our campus to one that no longer supports the Point-er culture."

The letter goes on to acknowledge and agree with the administration that changes are necessary, but proposes that the best solution would be one formed by collaboration between students, faculty, administration and community partners:

"We understand that we cannot remain the same kind of comprehensive university that we have been in the past. We urge academic affairs, common coun-

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For years, the legislature in Wisconsin has perpetuated the belief that education is only valuable when it leads to specific career paths. We were disheartened to see the attitude of our academic affairs conform to that belief.

- UW-Stevens Point students in letter to administration

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cil and student government to reconsider the extent to which this proposal would affect the campus as a whole through a relationship that encourages communication between community, faculty, staff and students."

The student letter ends by calling for the formation of task force that would include representation from each college on campus that would come up with a counter-proposal to be presented on May 3, emphasizing that the school should be working with the students and community to resolve the budget deficit instead of making what some see as a unilateral decision.

Opposers argue that the underlying value of the skills acquired through liberal arts education is not being considered and fear that the objectives of the administration have negatively shifted to a focus on financial profitability.

On March 15, 23 academic organizations including the American Philosophical Association and the American Political Science Association, issued a letter denouncing UW-Stevens Point administration's proposal and arguing against the school's rationale in defending its proposed strategy to bolster programs that have a more clearly defined career path in the current job market. The letter reads:

"By focusing on preparation only for narrowly defined jobs, Stevens Point administrators risk leaving students with considerably poorer preparation for the full range of careers most Americans will experience in a working lifetime...It is deeply misguided to eliminate humanities majors based on the inaccurate presumption that they do not prepare students for high-demand careers."

The fears outlined in the letter echo those of many others

who say they feel that this measure would deprive opportunities to working-class and low-income students. The letter ends by stating the added importance of humanities programs being available at public institutions and urges that the administration reconsider because their proposal would "irreparably damage liberal arts education."

The art vs science debate is one that has become more and more relevant in the past decade. The university's proposal and the issues that brought about are not isolated to UW-Stevens Point, but rather is just one instance is a broader issue plaguing many the nation's institutions of higher education. This has been due to changes and shifts in the economy which have led to declining enrollment rates and tuition revenue. Proponents on both sides have been vehement in their arguments and both seem to agree that change is needed.

NECC has also made similar changes but not to the extent that UW-Stevens Point is proposing. In the Spring of 2017, an internal audit led to the elimination of various certificate programs and degree programs in dance and theater due to low enrollment. However, some do not see this an emerging issue but rather a cyclical one. NECC English Professor Thomas Greene said,

"This happens every ten or fifteen years, this kind of a cycle where colleges and universities start to think that they should be more like trade schools or go for this sort of business model of high value classes or high value programs only. But they really are kind of cannibalizing their own programs because at the end of the day it always turns out that what employers want are the soft skills that come with the human-

ities, so at the other end of this cut-back they're going to find that they don't have the things they need to survive."

When asked their opinions, NECC students fell on both sides, but for the most part, agreed with the students protesting at UW-Stevens.

"If it's statewide I don't think it's acceptable because everyone has different goals and purposes. But if it's school-specific then that's fine because it'll be a tech school and there will be other options," said Human Services major Jackie Donahue.

Avery Kolenski, a psychology major, said, "STEM is important and needs more focus and I've seen statistics where more people are picking liberal arts majors so more students should be encouraged to pick liberal arts."

"I don't think every school has to offer everything but students should have access to everything. Look at the student body and see what the students need and want and cater to that but make sure that whatever they don't pick those students still have options available at other schools close by," said science department chair Mike Cross.

Whether you are majoring in English or engineering, love science or hate math, schools need to adapt to cultural, societal and economical changes. Whether you agree or disagree on a proposed solution is much less important than the strategy involved in coming to that conclusion. Students want to have a say in their educational experiences and have the option to participate in the decision-making processes that directly affect their future.

Editor in chief Sarah Desiderio contributed to this story.

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But they really are kind of cannibalizing their own programs because at the end of the day it always turns out that what employers want are the soft skills that come with the humanities, so at the other end of this cut-back they're going to find that they don't have the things they need to survive.

- Tom Greene, NECC English Professor

More

Cont. from page 1

He explains that it was an extended training for him, “the more you shoot, the better you get.” He also explained how essential it was for him to release content, saying “it is the most important part of marketing in general, if you become the authority on the subject that you are marketing in and selling in, people look to you not only for advice, but once they have the advice and that free information that your constantly putting out, they trust you. Building a brand, it’s more important than trying to push a sale.”

Garcia got much of his inspiration for shooting portraits through wedding photography, when his friend from high school reached out to him asking if he could shoot his wedding. Garcia found love in capturing moments in a candid style of people in their most natural states. He says, “The better clients are looking for the experience, not so much the end result.”

Garcia keeps his photography diverse explaining that he’s never “been too identity focused” and that he just focuses on what

he likes to do and that he doesn’t think too much outside of his own enjoyment.

Bryan Fernandez 21, was a former student at Northern Essex studying psychology and is currently employed at Best Buy where he met Garcia about 6 months ago, where they struck up a conversation about cameras and learned that they both shared a passion for photography.

Fernandez describes Garcia as someone who is “very driven by what he loves. He’s good at his craft and has a lot of potential. The most important thing is that he has fun while doing it.” Fernandez recently learned about the “Faces of NECC” project saying that “it’s a great way of connecting everybody as one collective community.” Fernandez shares

many of the same viewpoints as Garcia when it comes to their craft. Fernandez shared insightful advice saying, “study and practice. It’s a game of trial and error when it comes to learning, so it’s a craft that involves having a strong mindset. You can’t get too discouraged because the only way of learning is through sufficiency.” Garcia and Fernandez stay in touch and see each other often whenever Garcia stops by at Best Buy looking for ways to enhance his camera.

Garcia kindly asked to take a photo of me to include in the Faces of NECC project. He asked if I could switch to the opposite side of the table where the sun was hitting as he further directed my pose, asking me to move more towards the left, put my chin down

and tilt my head. Everything came natural to him as he quickly played with the camera settings and moved slightly to capture the perfect light. After the single shot, he proudly showed me the photo.

All photos taken by Jose Garcia.



Taryn Decker



Alejandra Chandler

“Building a brand, it’s more important than trying to push a sale

- Jose Garcia

Let’s Travel!

Traveling doesn’t have to be just for the rich. Here’s some ways college students ‘get out there’

By SCARLET MELO
Correspondent

For many college students, travel can seem out of reach when it comes to affordability. But there are many websites out there that make it affordable for students to travel even when they

are on a low budget.

For most of the students here at NECC, travel seems out of the question. For some however, they have found a way to travel using discounted websites made for students and youth even after graduation.

Buying airline tickets and booking hotels can seem almost impossible on a student’s budget, but with websites such as studentuniverse.com, students are given discounts when they provide their student emails to the websites. These discounts can make a huge difference as some flights are dis-

counted as much as 15%. “Before I found this website I really didn’t think I could travel outside of the country but when I looked at the prices it really wasn’t that far out of reach for me” says NECC student Stephanie Batista. When Stephanie traveled to Germany, she found airlines tickets using her student email that were at a lower cost than any other online travel agencies.

Airlines are not the only thing that seem to empty your pockets when it comes to travel. Hotels are sometimes the most expensive thing about traveling to an-

other state or country and can really make a difference in how much you spend while you’re abroad.

Instead of booking hotels, NECC student Isabel Duran prefers to use home rental websites such as AirBNB.com. “You can find room rentals or hostels in this site that costs so much less than hotels, I haven’t booked a hotel in a long time because of air bnb” says Isabel when mentioning how much air bnb has helped her afford to travel. Hostels are something that is used throughout Europe and many other parts

of the country. With hostels, students are able to meet other people in the hotels and can create life long friendships.

Travel does not always seem out of reach when it comes to college students. All students have to do is look for discounts that are available to people attending college. At the end of the day, the most important part of travel is to stay safe, no matter what website you come across, make sure its reliable.

Nor’easter, No Easter

Is snow really less fun when you’re an adult?

By AALLYHIA CRUZ
Correspondent

Visualize it: You are just a little kid. It’s morning, and you have to get ready for school. You glance out the window and instead of a clear morning, it’s a snowy morning. It’s a beautiful snow day: no school, no homework, just a day of enjoying a winter wonderland by having snowball fights, making snow angels, and making snowmen. If not, staying inside and snuggled up in a blanket while binge-watching a cartoon or watching a good movie while drinking hot chocolate. When you are a little kid, snow days are just

the most splendid time of the year even after the holiday season.

Now fast forward and envision this: You’re an adult in the year 2018. You wake up one morning to prepare for class or work. You look outside and instead of a cloudless day, it’s another snow day. You start getting frustrated recognizing you have to shovel the blocks of snow out of your driveway. If you are a college student, you realize your professor will create a snow day assignment since your class is canceled.

If you are a working adult, you have to devote countless hours trying to unbury your vehicle from the snow. Life is bizarre when you are more knowledgeable especially when it comes to the dangers of the winter season. It’s a pros and cons list for the

winter season. The pros are undeniably the holidays like Christmas, new year’s eve and day. The biggest pro is the winter break that only lasts a few weeks but it feels like a trial month has gone by. The cons about winter?

Enduring all of these nor’easters when the groundhog encounters his shadow, and you lose track about calling a month of the year a trial month due to thinking if it’s, nevertheless, January or it’s mid-march.

In general, winter has lost its touch in terms of enjoyment with the family and enjoying the holiday season. Promptly it appreciates the time with family and trying to make it through the winter with the stress it brings. Snow days have lost its magical aspect with the in-depth of reality. With

also the risings of accidents such as your classic car crash, the dreaded slip & fall, and the worst flu season of all time. Snow days have been becoming more of a nightmare to a person well-being of their own body. It can’t possibly get any worse. With the madness of this weather, one can only craft in their mind what the next winter season conducts. Will it be more severe than this one?

Mother nature is a brutal cycle that maybe will be a lot easier on all of us when spring officially rolls on by. This Nor’ Easter season 2018 can finally be put to rest and we can all focus on more important things in our adult agendas. How to successfully pass the semester, what to wear for graduation day, how to make time for family and the workplace during

the summer months: the heat around those months will be unbearable, but it will be worth it.

If there is anything we should all take away from this horrible winter season: it’s that no matter what a groundhog does or what the weatherman or weather woman says, we need to have a plan. We must always be prepared for any inconveniences that could happen with our health, property, supply and so on and so forth.

In the lighter years, it’s always been the same scenario of being told to have fun and stay safe during these days and during the winter break, and in some cases like this year when spring break happens. Some can cherish it and others can’t but one thing is for sure, from here on out, it doesn’t seem to change.

Sports

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Baseball team sees mixed results

NECC Knights return from Florida road trip

By MALIK ZORROK
Sports Editor

After starting out the season on a high note, the NECC Knights have struggled as of late, losing seven out of their last eight games.

The Knights, who have just returned from a Florida road trip that lasted a week, started off the road trip on a high note.

They swept the doubleheader against Vermilion Community College, soundly defeating them by scores of 15-0 and 10-3.

The troubles started for the baseball team on March 12, splitting the doubleheader against Rollins College, before losing both games against Monroe Community College in high scoring affairs, 9-8 and 19-15.

The Knights picked up their last win on March 15, shutting out Prince George's Community College by a score of 12-0, before dropping their next four decisions.

It's not all bad news for the Knights however, as there were several performances by key individuals that should not be overlooked.

Sophomore right handed pitcher, Corey Imbriano, was

named the NJCAA National Pitcher of the week for the week of March 5.

On Saturday, March 10, Imbriano (2-0) delivered quite the impressive performance, striking out 11 batters, while issuing zero free passes and allowing only three hits, all singles.

Imbriano has been on a tear to start off the campaign, allowing only one earned run in 14 innings pitched, striking out 27 batters and walking only one, for an outstanding ERA of 0.64.

Freshman right hander, Michael Goodin (1-1), has also provided the Knights with another solid pitching option.

Goodin has appeared in 5 games, pitching 15.1 innings, allowing only four earned runs, striking out seven and only walking two men.

On the offensive side, the key contributors have been sophomore Riley Magee, freshman Leo Romero and freshman Alexander Almonte.

Magee has been the star offensively, posting an incredible slash line of .431/.627/1.102, along with six extra base hits, including two home runs. Magee also leads the team with 14 RBIs.

While Magee has been the team's most relied-upon hitter, Almonte has been the best all-around hitter for the

Knights.

Almonte leads the team in on-base percentage, as well as slugging percentage, signaling a balance of being able to get on base, as well as hitting for extra base hits.

Almonte leads the team in extra base hits, home runs and is fourth on the team in hits.

The NECC Knights, although they have been struggling, have a very talented roster, including multiple stars at the top of the lineup and rotation, as well as key depth pieces on the roster.

It is only a matter of time before they start clicking and go on one of their classic runs.

NECC Knights baseball schedule

MARCH

Sat. 31	at Quinsigamond Community College *	12:00 PM
	at Quinsigamond Community College *	2:30 PM

APRIL

Tue. 3	at Tufts University JV	3:30 PM
Wed. 4	at Southern Maine Community College	3:30 PM
Thu. 5	Holyoke Community College *	3:30 PM
Sat. 7	at Massasoit Community College * DH - G1	12:00 PM
Mon. 9	at MassBay Community College *	3:30 PM
Thu. 12	Bunker Hill Community College *	3:30 PM
Sat. 14	at Holyoke Community College *	12:00 PM
	at Holyoke Community College *	2:30 PM
Tue. 17	Southern Maine Community College	3:30 PM
Thu. 19	Quinsigamond Community College *	3:30 PM
Sat. 21	MassBay Community College *	12:00 PM
	MassBay Community College *	2:30 PM
Sun. 22	at University of Connecticut at Avery Point	1:00 PM
	at University of Connecticut at Avery Point	3:30 PM
Thu. 26	Massasoit Community College *	3:30 PM
Sat. 28	at Bunker Hill Community College *	12:00 PM
	at Bunker Hill Community College *	2:30 PM

Sports

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Is it worth the sweat?

The benefits of exercising for college students

By JULIA LAWLISS

Correspondent

To some people, the very idea of exercising at a local gym or a school gym, or even at home, is cringeworthy.

Or they make an excuse about dedicating a few times a week to picking up a dumbbell or walking a few miles on a treadmill.

Now — there is absolutely nothing wrong with saying no to fitness; however, the benefits it brings a college student is worth thinking about before making such a rash decision.

Daily, we find ourselves sitting more than moving about without resting.

Sitting at desks, tables, in a chair in the library. Because of the load of college classes (on campus and online) and, possibly, too, a job, it can be quite difficult for a college student to squeeze in time to be physically active during a regular week.

Just the thought of adding one more thing to do sounds exhausting but, making sure to get some exercise in shouldn't be. I personally began working out over a year ago, and I have, of

course, seen a difference in my physique, but, too, in my performance in the classroom, and events that happen in my personal life that are in need of my full attention. Maybe, if given a chance, the same can happen for you.

Rob Parker, the wellness and fitness center coordinator at Northern Essex Community College, had this to say about how wonderful exercise can be, from a psychological standpoint: "Year after year, my trainers, student volunteers and myself have observed students, who come into the Wellness and Fitness Center to exercise, get stronger not only physically but mentally! Honestly, students who exercise often are more likely to stay in school longer and either successfully transfer or graduate. Moving your body on a machine or with bodyweight exercises can allow you to experience a reduced stress response toward schoolwork and other overwhelming tasks."

Parker also shared how fitness can increasingly improve a student's memory, teach them time management skills, and how to set and achieve healthy goals.

Putting together a workout routine for yourself is highly recommended, Parker said, but even just implanting a ten to twenty-minute walk outside around your neighborhood would be beneficial! "Studies have shown," he assured, "that even the smallest of exercises can bring the most clarity to the brain and promote brain cell growth. It's amazing!"

It is no surprise how the human body, once in motion, can have us feel like we can do anything.

This is because of how exercise stimulates parts of the brain that are "asleep" during the day.

The memory portion of it all is very important, especially as a college student and faced with hours of schoolwork and studying of exams.

The hippocampus — the structure of the brain that controls the formation, retention, and recall of any type of memory, both direct and indirect — is said to grow when the body is physically active.

According to an article by Heidi Godman in the Harvard Health Letter, normally, the hippocampus shrinks a bit when a person reaches their late twenties, and

this leads to memory loss or periods of forgetfulness, but with exercise or any form of physical activity, really, it becomes stronger!

The brain can reduce insulin resistance, inflammation, and stimulate the release of growth factors, according to Godman.

Along with this comes stronger focus and concentration levels, a boost in mood, and a reduction of daily stressors that flow through the body and mind, causing future health struggles if not dealt with properly, Godman says.

So, make time during the week — even if it's a couple days instead of daily — to perform some sort of exercise. May it be in the early morning, mid-afternoon, or before you head off to bed: choose a specific activity that gets your heart pumping, may it be running, hiking, or dancing in your room for twenty minutes to a half hour.

Elvis Medina, an electrical engineering major at NECC, is one of several students who have benefited from working out.

"For six years now, I have hit the gym or gone outside for some form of exercise. But I really dedicated myself to the

lifestyle my second year of college. It isn't easy most days; especially if I am exhausted from pulling an all-nighter — however, the fact of getting stronger, that is what motivates me the most to keep going into the next day. Plus, it makes me feel empowered to finish a difficult task!"

He also happily reported experiencing better immune health, memory, and grade point average as a result of working out, due to how the mindset of training hard has influenced him to train just as hard in school.

"For any student looking to exercise or may be nervous to step into a gym," Parker stated, "I encourage you to, please, come see us at the Wellness and Fitness Center. We have such a friendly staff and have programs designed to get people started including free personal training and small group classes! Don't give up on yourself; tell yourself you can, and you will!"

As the ever so popular encouraging slogan of Nike goes: Just do it. You will have no regrets.

Basketball players named to All-Region team

By SARAH COMISKEY

NECC Newsroom

Two Northern Essex Community College students, Alexis Estrella of Lawrence and Emir Alagoz of Istanbul, Turkey (now living in Haverhill), have been named to the 2018 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XXI All-Region basketball team, following a vote by area coaches.

Estrella, an All-Region second team selection, led the Knights in scoring this season at an average of 15.6 points per game, starting 29 of the 30 games and twice scoring a career-high of 35 points.

A strong competitor from long range, he shot 43.5 percent from behind the arc this season, ranking fifth in three-point field goal percentages regionally.

He was also second on the team in assists, at 2.3 per game.

Alagoz, a third team selection, was the team leader in assists per game (at 7.2), ranking second in assists for the region. He also led the region in assist-to-turnover ratio, at 4.8 per game.

Like Estrella, he started in 29 of the team's contests and was second in scoring, at 14.4 points per game.

During the season, Alagoz converted on 51.8 percent of his field goal attempts.

The Knights basketball team concluded their season earlier this month with a loss in the regional semi-finals and finished with a 17-13 overall record. The 2017-18 season saw a 14-win improvement over the previous season.

Northern Essex Community College competes as a member of the NJCAA and sponsors eight varsity intercollegiate sports including baseball, men's basketball, softball, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's track and field.

For more information on Northern Essex Community College Athletics visit the official website of Northern Essex Athletics.



Photo courtesy NECC Newsroom

Emir Alagoz (left) and Alexis Estrella (right) will compete in the 2018 All-Region men's basketball team.

Just for Fun

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Kirby Star Allies: Nintendo's first major game of 2018

It looks like 2018 is taking the first step in the right direction in the gaming world

The game starts off as most of them do; Kirby sleeping and the citizens of Dream Land overtaken by the vague powers of vague darkness. Kirby wakes up and sets off for resident troublemaker King Dedede. Along the way, Kirby gobbles up his foes taking their abilities for his quest to beat up the king. Kirby topples the crown and the credits roll. If this sounds short don't worry, this is the cold open. We have three more worlds to go, each of them bigger than Dream Land. They exactly aren't going to put characters that don't show up onto the game case.

Core gameplay is mostly the same. Kirby can float, inhale his adorable enemies to copy their powers or turn that power into an equally adorable standalone friend. This time around more emphasis is placed on Kirby's friends. You can now throw a heart at certain enemies to add them to his team of up to three buddies. They can either be computer controlled or used by another player, each of them having the same abilities that Kirby would if he had eaten that particular char-

acter.

New to the series, however, are combination abilities. You and your buddies can combine your powers for new ways to attack or solve puzzles by standing next to each other, having one of you hold up on the joystick, and using an ability. For example, the Cutter ability can be combined with the Wing ability for Bluster Cutter ability which ignores wind and activate switches other abilities wouldn't be able to go. Not all abilities have combinations, like the Throw ability just letting you chuck a friend.

Having Kirby's friends isn't just a power up, it's also mandatory for certain areas. Some doors only open if you have at least that many party members. There are also pedestals that require a full team of four and have Kirby and his allies perform tricks like creating a four person wheel or making a bridge out of themselves to allow another non-player character to get across a gap in order to proceed.

Kirby Star Allies is very clearly not meant to be played alone. It's more of a party game than it is a traditional Kirby platformer. Typically game with AI controlled partners tend to make those partners pretty stupid, but the AI friends in Star Allies are smart. Get close enough to a puzzle that requires a particu-

lar ability your friends will take care of it. Signal them to start a combination ability and the AI is even smart enough to use the right combination depending on the situation even between two of them.

Smart AI is normally praiseworthy, but ultimately it makes Star Allies pretty easy, even for a Kirby game. Since the game throws enemies at you, you'll likely always have the right combination available to you when a puzzle comes up and without human error there's no need for communication and preparation. Extra lives are also easy to come by, and that with the lack of overall difficulty makes those extra lives feel meaningless.

But Star Allies shines as a party game. Since every player gets to have a different ability, everybody is encouraged to try out various combination abilities as soon as they can. This can make puzzles more frustrating, however, when the person sitting next to you doesn't want to change their ability or won't listen as you try to explain the solution. Just like in real life, adding in humans can make an otherwise easy situation difficult yet feel more rewarding when things start going your way.

There are also other mini game modes including a baseball game, a tree cutting game, a time trial mode where you only play as

one of Kirby's friends instead of Kirby, and the classic boss rush. These modes don't add much in the way of replayability but they do add to the party game feel that story mode offers, giving players who get bored something else to do.

The game is a feast for the eyes and ears. The high definition really makes the scenery feel alive and being perfect for each and every level. The first level of the second world is clearly a reference to Kirby's Dream Land 3 for the SNES and somehow manages to capture the sort of colored-pencil-drawn environment without shifting away from the graphical style of the rest of the game. The music is mostly new as well rather than redone tracks from previous titles. Some stages use chiptune which sounds great without needing to feel nostalgic.

Speaking of nostalgia, the game has plenty of callbacks to previous Kirby games that feel

like a celebration of the series' past rather than blatant fan-service. Veteran players may be surprised with how Kirby's original friends from Dream Land 3 make cameos. The aforementioned World 2 have levels that harken back to Kirby Super Star's Meta Knight's Revenge and Great Cave Offensive. Again, all of these may come with a sense of nostalgia while bringing something new to the table.

Overall, Kirby Star Allies is a great Kirby game as long as you have actual friends to play it with. In a world where more games are trying to be like Dark Souls or Cuphead, this is a welcome breather for its ease and relaxing visuals. It's not a must-own game by any stretch but it's still worth hanging onto if obtained as a gift or picked up second hand.

If you get the chance to play Kirby Star Allies, definitely do it and you won't be disappointed.

